

and to the benefits of which Ethiopia is entitled since she has been a Member of the League; and consequently, in accordance with Article 20 of the Covenant, the Agreement of 1906 would fall to the ground so far as such a contradiction existed.

It is perfectly clear that these agreements involve obligations upon the signatory States only, and not upon Ethiopia³ or any other Member of the League.

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Admission of Ethiopia to the League of Nations, September, 1923

II. The admission of Ethiopia to the League of Nations, with Italy's support, is indeed a factor of obvious importance in the development of the relations between the two countries and their mutual obligations.

Ethiopia was unanimously admitted in 1923, on the report of the Sixth Committee of the Assembly. To this report was annexed that of the Sub-Committee⁴ which had studied the Ethiopian Government's request. This Sub-Committee had considered whether the Empire fulfilled the requisite conditions for being admitted to the League. To the question whether it possessed a stable Government and well-defined frontiers, the Sub-Committee replied in the affirmative. To the question whether it was fully self-governing, it replied that, although it found itself unable to determine exactly the extent of the effective control of the central authority over the provinces remote from the capital, it was of opinion that Abyssinia was fully self-governed. As regards the question, "What have been the acts and declarations of Abyssinia as regards her international engagements?" the Sub-Committee took note of a telegram from the Heir to the Throne of Ethiopia (the present Emperor), dated August 1, 1923, containing the following declaration:

"The Abyssinian Government is prepared to accept the conditions laid down in Article I of the Covenant and to carry out all obligations incumbent on Members of the League of Nations."

The report continued as follows:

"The Sub-Committee notes that Abyssinia has, by this declaration, given proof of her good-will with regard to the fulfilment of her international engagements. In order to assist Abyssinia to overcome the difficulties which may in the past have been the obstacles to such fulfilment, the Sub-Committee recommends to the Committee that, before giving its opinion to the Assembly regarding the admission of Abyssinia, it should request Abyssinia to sign the following declaration:

"The Empire of Abyssinia, following the example of other sovereign States which have given special undertakings on the occasion of their admission to the League of Nations, makes the following declaration:

³ In July, 1906, the draft of the Tripartite Agreement was communicated to Menelik II, and his consent was requested. He reserved his right to consider the matter at length. On December 5th, on the advice of the agents of the three Powers, he handed them an acknowledgment of receipt. The treaty was signed in London a week later. (See, in particular, the Diplomatic Documents relating to Ethiopian Affairs published by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, Paris, 1907).

⁴ This Sub-Committee consisted of the representatives of the United Kingdom, Finland, France, Italy, Latvia, Persia and Roumania.